

Amendments to the Claims:

Listing of Claims:

1-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) A self-ligating orthodontic bracket for coupling an archwire with a tooth, comprising:

a metallic self-ligating assembly including an insert with an archwire slot and a ligating member movable relative to said insert between an open position in which an archwire is insertable into said archwire slot and a closed position in which the archwire is retained in said archwire slot; and

a bracket body configured to be mounted to a tooth and carrying said metallic self-ligating assembly, said bracket body comprising a non-metallic material.

29. (Previously Presented) The self-ligating orthodontic bracket of claim 28 wherein said non-metallic material is a polymer, a filled polymer composite, or a ceramic.

30. (Previously Presented) The self-ligating orthodontic bracket of claim 28 wherein said non-metallic material is sapphire, polycrystalline aluminum oxide, toughened zirconia, or yttrium-stabilized zirconia.

31. (Previously Presented) The self-ligating orthodontic bracket of claim 28 wherein said non-metallic material is polycarbonate, an acrylic-based thermoplastic resin, or an acrylic thermoset resin.

32. (Currently Amended) The self-ligating orthodontic bracket of claim 28 wherein said insert includes a plurality of walls embedded in said non-metallic material of said bracket body, at least one of said walls of said self-ligating insert [[is]] being wedge-shaped for increasing pull-out resistance in direction generally perpendicular to the tooth.

33. (Previously Presented) The self-ligating orthodontic bracket of claim 28 further comprising a metallic engagement member capable of constraining movement of said ligating member relative to said bracket body when said ligating member is in the closed position.

34. (Currently Amended) The self-ligating orthodontic bracket of claim 28 wherein said self-ligating assembly further includes at least one guide and said ligating member is slidably movable within engaged with said at least one guide for movement relative to said insert.

35. (New) The self-ligating orthodontic bracket of claim 28 wherein said insert further includes at least one guide and said ligating member is slidably engaged with said at least one guide for movement relative to said insert.

36. (New) The self-ligating orthodontic bracket of claim 28 wherein said archwire slot extends in a mesial/distal direction when said bracket body is mounted to the tooth, and said insert further includes a pair of guides spaced apart in the mesial/distal direction, said ligating member having peripheral edges slidably engaged with said guides for movement relative to said insert.